

Informational Descriptions of Elements of Montana MOU, Exhibit I

Elements of State Innovation and Reform Plans	Descriptions
1. Standards and Assessments	
Support the transition to enhanced standards and high-quality assessments through alignment to accreditation standards.	The Board of Public Education (BPE) will take action, yet to be determined, relative to internationally benchmarked standards. Through their regular process, they will consider adoption or alignment with the work around the Common Core State Standards Initiative. As it currently exists, LEAs will be expected to align their local curriculum with standards set by the BPE.
2. Data Systems to Support Instruction	
Use local data driven instructional improvement processes	LEAs agree to design and implement instructional improvement systems that are based on locally determined data sets, if they currently not engaged in this type of process. The SEA will provide LEA access to SEA longitudinal data system that will warehouse data used in this process.
Provide professional development on use of data to improve instruction	LEAs agree to provide professional development (PD) for teachers and principals to use data to improve instruction. SEA will provide best practice PD in using data to improve instruction for those LEAs that need assistance in this area.
3. Great Teachers and Leaders	
Implement evaluation systems that are aligned with state standards	The BPE will be adopting minimum standards for teacher and principal evaluation systems. LEA's agree to ensure that they will have local teacher and principal evaluation systems that are aligned with the elements and intent of the BPE rule. The SEA will provide assistance to LEAs around best practices of teacher and principal evaluation systems for those LEAs that need assistance in this area.
Conduct regular evaluations	LEA's agree to conduct regularly scheduled teacher and principal evaluations as determined necessary and meaningful at the local level.
4. Great Teachers and Leaders - providing effective support to teachers and principals	
Provide quality and purposeful professional development	LEA's agree to provide quality professional development to their teachers and principals around the elements of the state education innovation and reform plan. The SEA will provide assistance in providing best practices in this area for those LEAs that need assistance in this area.
Measure effectiveness of professional development	LEA's agree to measure effectiveness of professional development toward improving instruction through multi-faceted processes. The SEA will provide assistance in providing best practices in this area for those LEAs that need assistance in this area.